On 10 April 2010, the European Union launched a military training mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia) in order to contribute to strengthening the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the institutions of Somalia. This support is part of the EU’s comprehensive engagement in Somalia, which aims to support stabilising the country and to respond to the needs of the Somali people.

Since 2010, EUTM Somalia has contributed to the training of over 4,000 Somali soldiers from the Somali National Army (SNA) with a focus on the training of Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), Junior Officers, specialists and trainers. Initially training took place in Uganda due to the political and security situation in Somalia, and in close collaboration with the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF). The training focused on commander up to company level, in addition to specialist training in the areas of military police, civilian-military cooperation, intelligence, company commander and combat engineering. Modules on international humanitarian law and human rights, and the protection of civilians are also delivered.

On 22 January 2013, the Council of the European Union extended the mandate of EUTM Somalia to March 2015. This third mandate contained a significant change of Mission focus, with the addition of strategic advisory and mentoring activities to complement the training role. At this point, EUTM Somalia operated mainly in Uganda with the Mission Headquarters at Kampala and the training camp at Bihanga Training Centre (BTC) in Western Uganda, with a Liaison Office in Nairobi (Kenya), a Support Cell in Brussels but with a Mentoring Advisory and Training Element (MATE HQ) deployed forward in Mogadishu. This laydown changed in the first months of 2014 when the centre of gravity of EUTM Somalia shifted with the relocation of the Mission HQ to Mogadishu, along with all advisory, mentoring and training activities, which then lead to closure of all locations in Uganda.

Now complete in Mogadishu from January 2014, EUTM Somalia operates in close cooperation and coordination with other international actors; in particular, the United Nations, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and the United States of America. With these actors and the wider the International Community, EUTM Somalia has become well known and highly respected for its ability to establish enduring cooperation with key stakeholders and players in the region.
The current Mission Commander is Brigadier General Massimo Mingiardi (Italy) who took over his duties as EUTM Somalia on 15 February 2014, succeeding the previous Commanders; Brigadier General Gerald Aherne (Ireland), Colonel Michael Beary (Ireland) and Colonel Ricardo Gonzalez Elul (Spain). He leads a mission delivering its effect through the work of advisory and training teams, supported by the Mission Headquarters. The Mission base is the International Compound located at Mogadishu International Airport. In financial terms, the common funding of the mission will total €11.6 million for the period February 2013 - March 2015, on completion of the 3rd mandate.

The Defence Sector Training Team (DSTT), in liaison with AMISON, UNSOM and other actors plays an active role to support the Somali military authorities in the design, development and delivery of general and specialist training, particularly through course conducted at the Jazeera Training Camp (JTC), located in Mogadishu. Additionally, DSTT provides mentoring of Training Camp Commanders and their staff, as well as to SNA trainers who previously trained as trainers in BTC and JTC. During its time in Uganda between 2010 and the end of 2103, the number of Somali soldiers trained by EUTM Somalia trained at BTC was 3,206 Somalis (including among them 29 women) at the BTC. Thus far a further 1,000 Somalis have been trained in Somalia, with the total of 1,400 expected to complete a training course by end of 2014 at JTC.

In an advisory role. EUTM Somalia, has two teams to deliver its effect; the Strategic Advisory Team (SAT) and the Support Advisory Team (SpAT). SAT provides strategic advice to the Somali authorities within the security institutions (Ministry of Defence and General Staff), for which key outcomes are the development and drafting of keystone documents, along with advisory and mentoring activities in the Ministry of Defence and in the SNA General Staff. The main document submitted and approved has been a Ministerial Guidance on the Defence Policy for the period 2014 to 2016, dealing with the most important issues the Defence sector will face in the near future at political-military level. Other significant documents waiting final approval are; the Defence Strategic Plan (DSP) and associated Management Plan, a Directive about payments, and a Guide to the MoD with a proposal for the MoD structure and establishment of the Ministry in line with the DSP Management Plan. All of this work relies on the improving good relationship with the senior officials of the MoD and SNA General Staff.

For the critical area of SNA Support, the Support Advisory Team (SpAT) Support Advisory Team has two main roles of advising and mentoring, with an additional standing requirement to provide specialised training to SNA staff. The main effort is to develop the logistic capability of the SNA through both experience and knowledge. Specifically this means advising and mentoring the logistic staff in the main areas of supply, maintenance, transport, medical support, human resources and administration. The challenges in these areas manifest themselves as starting point for developing the long-term, capacity building of the SNA Support. In the Human Resources area, SpAT is collaborating with the UN to develop and rollout a biometric registration system for all SNA personnel, with potential adoption by the wider military community to assist the need for SNA accountability and transparency. Linked to the proposed SNA Human Resource systems (HRS), is the requirement for control of the financial aspects of payment, salaries, and Stipends to all personnel, for the HRS should be effective by late November 2014.

Looking forward there are further changes planned for EUTM-Somalia through 2014, with the Mission looking to increase support and advice for a wider security sector development and closer cooperation with the other EU missions operating in and around Somalia.

POLITICAL CONTROL AND MILITARY DIRECTION

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) exercises the political control and strategic direction of EUTM Somalia, under the responsibility of the Council of the European Union and of the High Representative. For its part, the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) monitors the correct execution of the mission conducted under the responsibility of the Mission Commander.
THE EUROPEAN UNION'S COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO SOMALIA

The EU supports the Somali institutions in the process towards a peaceful Somalia. It continues to engage with the Somali Federal Government and supports its efforts towards improving the living conditions of the population, including in the field of security and the delivery of basic services. The EU supports the principles laid down in the Djibouti Peace Agreement, including the spirit of reconciliation and the search for an inclusive process in Somalia. The EU took a leading role endorsing the agreement ("Compact") between Somalia and the International Community, on the basis of Somali priorities, at a high level conference on 16 September 2013 in Brussels. €1.8 billion was pledged in total; including €650 million from the EU in support of the priorities of the Compact.

The Joint Strategy Paper for Somalia for 2008-2013 has been implemented through an allocation of €412 million under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) managed by the European Commission. It covers three main sectors of cooperation: governance and security, education and economic development.

Other EU activities to support the Security Sector in Somalia

In addition to EUTM Somalia, there is a range of EU instruments contributing to the build-up and strengthening of the security sector in Somalia, in cooperation with international partners. The EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) - Operation ATALANTA contributes to the prevention and deterrence of piracy and the protection of vulnerable shipping. The EU also contributes to build the capacities of coastal police and the judiciary in Somalia, among other countries, through its regional civilian mission EUCAP Nestor. In addition, EU development aid (as e.g. education, job creation programmes) supports alternative livelihoods, thus contributing to deter piracy recruitment.

Since 2009, the Critical Maritime Routes (CMR) programme has focused on the security and safety of essential maritime routes in areas affected by piracy to help to secure shipping and trading lines of communication. The long-term objective addressed by the programme is to improve maritime governance. The emphasis is on capacity building at regional and trans-regional level for exchange of information, cooperation and subsequent implementation at national level. A total of €16.5 million has been committed in the period 2009-2013 for the Indian Ocean region, including Somalia.

The EU is a major sponsor of AMISOM, the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia, both financially and on planning and capacity building. The EU has contributed over €580 million to AMISOM since its launch in March 2007 through the African Peace Facility (APF). Furthermore, €13 million has been provided to support an environment free from explosive threats and €1.3 million for assisting central and local authorities to design and implement tangible activities in the Newly Accessible Areas of South-Central Somalia.

The EU is also planning an additional €15 million from the European Development Fund to the Somali police force and justice sector, making the total amount of EU support in this area €104 million. An additional €6 million will be provided for effective anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism, as well as capacity building and networking.

The European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy that might in time lead to a common defence. The CSDP allows the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level, thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The CSDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.